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PART TWO OF TWO PARTS

EMIGRATION OF SOVIET JEWS TO ISRAEL AND THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

14. IN CONCLUSION I ASKED OSAMA FOR HIS VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE. OSAMA SAID THAT THE ARABS WERE VERY UPSET AND HAD CALLED FOR AN IMMEDIATE ARAB SUMMIT. THE EGYPTIANS HAD SAID THAT THE CALLING OF SUCH A SUMMIT WAS FUTILE UNLESS THEY KNEW WHAT POLICY TO PURSUE. OSAMA EXPRESSED DISGUST WITH SOVIET TACTICS WHICH WERE TO TRY TO PLACE ALL THE BLAME ON THE UNITED STATES, ACCUSING THE LATTER OF CONNIVING IN ISRAELI ATTEMPTS TO SEND THE IMMIGRANTS TO THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND OF CLOSING THE GATES TO EMIGRATION TO AMERICA. THEY WERE ALSO ACCUSING THE AMERICANS OF FINANCING THE OPERATION. THE SOVIETS HAD EVEN TOLD THE ARABS THAT THEY WERE PREPARED TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO PROTEST AGAINST THE AMERICAN BEHAVIOUR. MENAWHILE THE ISRAELIS WERE STILL PRESSING TO CONTINUE DIRECT FLIGHTS FROM THE SOVIET UNION TO ISRAEL AND THE RUSSIANS WERE HESITATING ABOUT WHAT TO DO.

15. THE ARAB ATTITUDE, SAID OSAMA, WAS UNREALISTIC. THEY WERE CALLING FOR A BAN ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND A DEMAND FOR AMERICA TO ADMIT IMMIGRATION INTO AMERICA. ALTHOUGH THE EGYPTIANS WERE ALSO PRIVATELY URGING THE AMERICANS TO TAKE MORE SOVIET JEWS (THOUGH MANY OF THESE WERE PRIMITIVE ANTI-MUSLIM JEWS FROM SOUTHERN RUSSIA) THE ARABS WERE IN FACT ASKING FOR THINGS WHICH WERE NOT THEIR BUSINESS AND IN WHICH THEY HAD NO STANDING. THE EGYPTIANS WERE TRYING THEREFORE TO INTRODUCE A RATIONAL APPROACH. PRESIDENT MUBARAK HAD THIS WEEK SENT MESSAGES TO PRESIDENTS BUSH AND GORBACHEV. IN THESE MESSAGES, EXPRESSED IN FIRM LANGUAGE, THERE WAS NO TALK ABOUT THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF EMIGRATION BUT INSTEAD A CLEAR DEMAND THAT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY'S ACTION SHOULD BE ENGAGED ON TWO POINTS:

A. PROHIBITION OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT OF ANY ISRAELIS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES AND THE GOLAN HEIGHTS (FROM MEMORY I DO NOT THINK THAT OSAMA RESTRICTED THIS TO NEW SOVIET JEWISH

EMIGRANTS ONLY): AND

B. THE INSTITUTION OF A MECHANISM FOR VERIFICATION OF THIS PROHIBITION.

THE EGYPTIANS WERE INFORMING THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AND THE ISRAELIS OF THIS APPROACH. I SAID THAT I PERSONALLY THOUGHT THIS WAS A MUCH MORE CONSTRUCTIVE APPROACH THAN ALL THE VAGUE EMOTIONAL APPEALS FROM ARAB SOURCES WE HAD SEEN IN RECENT WEEKS. OSAMA SAID HE WAS TRAVELLING TO MOSCOW THIS SATURDAY, 9 JANUARY, PARTLY TO PREPARE FOR PRESIDENT MUBARAK'S VISIT THERE IN MARCH AND PARTLY TO DISCUSS THE JEWISH EMIGRATION PROBLEM. IN CONCLUSION, OSAMA SAID THAT THE WHOLE ISSUE OF SOVIET JEWISH EMIGRATION HAD ERUPTED AT A MOST UNFORTUNATE TIME. (IN A WILD ASIDE HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO NOT PUT IT PAST THE ISRAELIS TO SETTLE SOVIET JEWS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON). SPEAKING PERSONALLY HE THOUGHT THAT THE PRESENCE OF AN EXTRA HALF A MILLION JEWS IN ISRAEL WOULD BE PROFOUNDLY DESTABILISING. SOME OF THEM WOULD INEVITABLY FIND THEIR WAY TO THE WEST BANK AND DISPLACED PALESTINIANS WOULD CROSS THE ALLENBY BRIDGE INTO JORDAN. THE POSITION OF KING HUSSEIN, WHICH HAD BEEN FUNDAMENTALLY INSECURE FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS, WOULD BE RENDERED EVEN MORE DIFFICULT BY THIS NEW THREAT.

16. ON OUR WAY OUT OSAMA MADE MORE DISMISSIVE REMARKS ABOUT THE SOVIET ROLE. I SAID THAT TAVASOV (TUNIS TELEGRAM NO 31) HAD BEEN A NUISANCE IN TUNIS. OSAMA SAID THAT TAVASOV HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN OTHER DISINFORMATION ACTIONS RECENTLY.

COMMENT

17. THIS WAS A GOOD OSAMA SESSION. HE WAS RELAXED, FRIENDLY AND INFORMATIVE. I DO NOT THINK THAT THE AMERICANS WOULD THANK HIM FOR SOME OF THE INFORMATION HE DIVULGED AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONFIRMATION OF SOME OF THE PALESTINIAN NAMES WHICH THE PLO HAD HANDED OVER, IF ONLY AS EXAMPLES. HIS FUNDAMENTAL PESSIMISM ABOUT THE OUTCOME OF A POSSIBLE CAIRO DIALOGUE MEETING, WHICH WAS ALREADY EVIDENT WHEN MR WALDEGRAVE SAW HIM IN NOVEMBER AND WHEN I TOOK SIR C TICKELL TO SEE HIM IN DECEMBER, WAS CONFIRMED.

18. THIS TALLIES WELL WITH A SESSION WHICH DHM AND FULLER HAD WITH THE AMERICAN CHARGE (MARK JOHNSON) EARLIER ON 7 FEBRUARY. ARENS HAD PERSUADED THE AMERICANS TO HOLD THE TRIPARTITE MEETING AFTER THE LIKUD CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING. NAMES OF PALESTINAINS HAD BEEN EXCHANGED INFORMALLY BETWEEN THE 3 PARTIES BUT THERE WAS NO LIST AS

SUCH. JOHNSON'S REMARKS CONFIRM THE IMPRESSION GIVEN BY OSAMA THAT THE PROBLEM OF WHO SHOULD ANNOUNCE THE NAMES AND THE AGENDA QUESTION HAVE NOT BEEN FINALLY SETTLED. UNLIKE THE POSITION OF SOME WEEKS AGO THE EGYPTIANS AND THE OTHER PARTIES MAY BE CONTEMPLATING A TRIPARTITE MEETING EVEN IF NOT ALL THE CRUCIAL ISSUES HAVE BEEN PRE-COOKED IN ADVANCE.

19. MEANWHILE THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR CALLED ON THE EGYPTAIN FOREIGN MINISTER EARLIER THIS WEEK TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM DUMAS ABOUT THE PEACE PROCESS.

ADAMS

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